



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 20, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Community Development Department, Planning Division

SUBJECT: 2009 Solar Design Recognition Awards

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council grant the 2009 Solar Design Recognition Awards.

DISCUSSION:

On December 5, 2006, the Council approved the City's Solar Energy System and Passive Solar Design Guidelines and Recognition Program. The intent of the program is to promote reduced fossil fuels energy consumption, efficient use of energy resources, and aesthetically integrated systems into the design of projects and buildings. The Guidelines include checklists that specify preferred design approaches for solar installations. The program provides that each year, Council would publicly recognize projects in each category established in the Guidelines.

"Million Solar Roofs Partnership" Goals Consistency. The City participates in the Federal Million Solar Roofs Initiative, begun in 2004, which has a goal of solar panels to be installed on one million US roofs by 2010. The City's key local partners in the program include the Community Environmental Council, local solar energy system installers, and Southern California Edison. To achieve the program goals, each City and County is encouraged to set their own goal for systems installations.

The County-wide goal set by the local Million Solar Roofs Program Partnership is 750 solar energy systems to be installed between January 2005 and 2010. The City of Santa Barbara has a population of approximately 25% of that of the County of Santa Barbara, resulting in a goal of at least 187 systems to be in the city.

City of Santa Barbara and California Solar Initiative data indicates that approximately 240 systems have been installed in Santa Barbara since January 2005, exceeding the Million Solar Roofs program goal. Between May 2008 and May 2009, approximately 40 active solar electrical energy systems were permitted in the City of Santa Barbara, totaling more than 880 kW of energy-generating potential. Another goal is to ensure that the systems are integrated aesthetically within our community. Well-integrated designs promote the use of solar technology and portray it as both effective and aesthetically compatible, encouraging widespread use.

On July 17, 2007, Council held the first annual solar awards ceremony and presented the first set of award plaques and certificates. This year marks the third annual Solar Design Recognition Awards event. After this year, due to budget constraints, and the city's accomplishment of local Million Solar Roofs Program goals, the awards program will be suspended until economic conditions improve.

In 2009, awards are proposed in the following categories. Award recipients for each are in the attachment.

Standard Solar Energy System Projects, Not Publicly Visible:

- Ideal Sites
- Flat-Roof Panel System

Design Challenge Solar Energy System Projects, Publicly Visible:

- Carefully Designed and Mounted Panel Systems

Special Challenge Solar Energy System Projects:

- Mission-Style Tile Roofs
- Historic District and Structures

Staff consulted Stella Larson, Chair of the Planning Commission, to review the awards recommendations. As a result, staff recommends that property owners, applicants and solar contractors representing 19 projects identified as consistent with the Solar Guidelines be presented with certificates. Staff also recommends that plaques be awarded to the property owners of five of those projects selected as best exemplifying the Solar Energy System Design Guidelines. The award plaques were created by Brian Chandler, a local artist who uses a magnifying glass to burn images onto wood using the sun's heat. Mr. Chandler hopes his artwork will inspire others to become more familiar with solar energy and to "take Earth-conscious action."

The City is also providing applicants and hearing boards with ongoing guidance regarding project consistency with the Guidelines. Staff now completes the majority of solar energy system expedited zoning plan checks at the Counter for solar energy system applications. The current review process involves encouraging applicants to voluntarily adjust projects to be eligible for Solar Recognition. Applicants with projects that have already been designed and submitted appear more reluctant to redesign submitted projects. However, submittals appear to be increasing in consistency with the Guidelines as most contractors have become familiar with the City's voluntary guidelines.

Staff also helps to orient the Architectural Board of Review, Historic Landmarks Commission, Single Family Design Board, and Planning Commission during hearings where solar energy systems are proposed as part of larger development projects. Staff advises the boards on how to comment within the framework of State statutory limitations, i.e., ensuring no more than 20% in additional costs for the solar energy system, and no more than a 20% loss in system efficiency due to aesthetic concerns. This can be especially challenging where proposals for alterations to historic structures are proposed.

The Single Family Design Guidelines (SFDG) also encourage applicants to reserve approximately 300 square feet of roof space free of mechanical or rooftop equipment in a location where a solar energy system could be integrated with the structure. The Building and Safety Energy Ordinance and SFDG also encourage passive solar design principles.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Active and passive solar energy are cleaner forms of energy than traditional fossil fuels and are safer than nuclear power. Less regional pollution will result from increased solar use, which this awards program promotes.

ATTACHMENT: List of Awards Recipients - 2009

PREPARED BY: Heather Baker, Project Planner

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, Community Development Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office

ATTACHMENT

2009 Active Solar Energy System Recommended Award Plaque Recipients

Standard Solar Energy System Projects, Not Publicly Visible (Category 1)

Flat Roof Panel System

1205 Coast Village Road (also LEEDs Platinum & Built Green _3-Star Project)

Owner: L B Benon Family Limited Partnership Contractors: REC Solar

Architect: Lenvik & Minor Allen Associates

Ideal Site

900 Calle De Los Amigos (Valle Verde Retirement Community)

Owner: American Baptist Homes of the West Contractor: Sun Pacific Solar

Design Challenge Solar Energy System Projects, Publicly Visible (Category 2)

Carefully Designed and Mounted Panel Systems

52 Calle Capistrano

Owner: Debruynkops Family

Contractor: Robert Green Plumbing/Electric

429 Canon Drive

Owner: Sheila Cullen

Contractor: California Solar Electric

(also Passive Solar Award Certificate recipient)

1811 El Faro

Owner: Clive Leedham Family
(solar electric and solar thermal)

Contractors: R & M Technologies
Mac's Solar & Pools

Building Integrated Technologies

(none this year)

**2009 Active Solar Energy System
Recommended Award Certificate Recipients**

Standard Solar Energy System Projects, Not Publicly Visible

(Category 1)

Ideal Sites

707 Woodland Drive

Owner: Harold Fildey

Contractor: Akeena Solar

807 E. Pedregosa

Owner: Gerald & Karen Sears

Contractor: Sun Pacific Solar

1570 Las Canoas

Owner: Bellis Family

Contractor: Ribbens Construction

32 Mountain Drive

Owner: Abshere Family

Contractor: REC Solar

460 Mountain Drive

Owner: Judith C. Ricker

Contractor: REC Solar

1503 Clifton Street

Owner: Greg Sharp

Contractor: REC Solar

1522 Marquard Terrace

Owner: Holger Peters

Contractor: REC Solar

3239 Cliff Drive

Owner: Arent & Jean Schuyler

Contractor: REC Solar

Flat-Roof Panel System

1440 Jesusita Lane

Owner: Mark Simmons

Contractor: REC Solar

Design Challenge Solar Energy System Projects, Publicly Visible (Category 2)

Carefully Designed and Mounted Panel Systems**138 Santa Rosa**

Owner: Clevenger/Headlee Family

Contractor: REC Solar

3532 Chuparosa

Owner: Jarrott Family Trust

Contractor: REC Solar

735 Kentia Avenue

Owner: Susan & Jerrel Stonich

Contractor: California Solar Electric

1118 Manitou Road

Owner: Hunt Family

Contractor: California Solar Electric

1435 Crestline

Owner: Thompson Family

Contractor: California Solar Electric

Building Integrated Technologies

(none this year)

Special Challenge Solar Energy System Projects (Category 3)

Mission Tile**30 Pueblo Vista Road**

Owner: David Gross & Jacquelyn Li Savani

Contractor: California Solar Electric

8 Pueblo Vista Road

Owner: John Tooby & Leda Cosmides

Contractor: Sun Pacific Solar

118 Calle Bello

Owner: Paul & Marianne Gertman

Contractor: REC Solar

Historic District and Structures**1810 Las Canoas**

Owner: Patrick & Nancy Davis

Contractor: REC Solar

**2009 Passive Solar
Recommended Award Certificate Recipients**

429 Canon Drive

Owner: Sheila Cullen
(Also Active Solar Award Recipient)

Architect: Tim Steele
Contractor: William A. Below, GC

Commercial/Institutional

791 Chapala Street

Silvergreens
Owner: Chadwick Pacific, LP

Architect: Michael Holliday
Contractor: Armstrong Associates

1205 Coast Village Road (also LEEDs Platinum & Built Green 3-Star Project and Active Solar Award Recipient)

West Coast Asset Management

Owner: L B Benon Family Limited Partnership
Architect: Lenvik & Minor

Engineers: Alan Noelle Engineering
MEC, Inc.
Morgan Jones

Contractors: Allen Associates
REC Solar